To the

# FRONT

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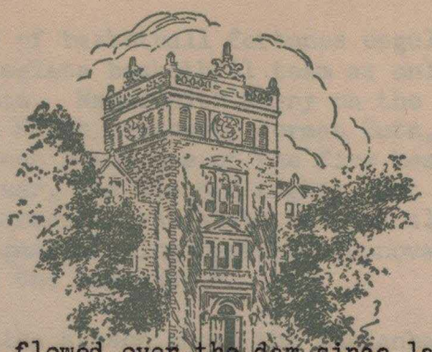

from

# MUHLENBERG

Dear Mules:

A lot of water has flowed over the dam since last I talked with you through the pages of this letter. We finished our basketball season, won the Middle Atlantic Conference championship, the wrestling season has been concluded, spring football practice has started, and the campus is busier than ever. I'll try to bring you up to date on things here at 'Berg, so let's get under way.

We closed the regulation basketball season with two games at Madison Square Garden and Bucknell. Playing L.I.U. at the Garden, the Mules had a bad first half with the result that although the Mules outscored the Blackbirds 26-18 in the second half, the margin was not enough and they dropped the game 60-54. Harry Donovan scored 23 points, including eight field goals and missing only one out of eight tries from the foul line. He topped L.I.U.'s center Dick Holub who was high scorer for the Blackbirds with 21 points. The Mules, who had been in the running for a bid to one of the national tournaments prior to the game, just about lost all chances of being invited, but the team was not disgraced by this game and they made the metropolitan quintet hustle. Lafayette, the other Lehigh Valley representative in the Garden that night, dropped a thriller to City College of New York 42-40.

Bucknell, beaten only once on its home court during this season and then by 1 point to Lafayette, was just too much for the Mules when they met two days after the L.I.U. game. The Bisons bowled over the Mules 84-65 for one of the big surprises of the year. The whole team looked tired and off form and Harry Donovan played only the first half of the contest. Muhlenberg had defeated the Bisons at Allentown earlier in the season 67-54, but the Ludwig coached boys were intent on giving their mentor a going away present and they did just that. Woody Ludwig has left Bucknell to become director of athletics at Pennsylvania Military College, Chester, Pa.

With the regulation season at a close, the Barker-coached squad got down to business for the Middle Atlantic Conference playoffs at the University of Delaware. Muhlenberg winner of the Northern division, Swarthmore, the Southern division champs, Albright, winner of the crown in the Western group and LaSalle, invited by the tournament officials to participate in the playoffs, were the teams who met at Newark, Delaware for the final battle. None of the local floors were available for this game and the tournament had to be played at Delaware. The pairings found Muhlenberg facing Albright and LaSalle pitted against Swarthmore. When the smoke of battle had cleared away, Muhlenberg was out on top 58-55 and LaSalle had downed Carl Dellmuth's squad 47-43. The papers termed the Muhlenberg game as one of the best of the season, for, although we were outscored from the floor, 25 baskets to 22, we converted 14 out of 21 foul attempts while Albright scored 5 out of 9 tries. The game was all tied up five times during the third period, but the superb teamwork of the locals gave them the victory. Donovan and Saemmer led the scoring with 17 and 16 points respectively, while the work of Red Baldwin, Dick McGee and the rest of the squad was worthy of the highest praise.

Again proving its stamina and its label as a second half team, the Mules came back strong against a powerful LaSalle team and won the championship 45-41. Trailing at half time 19-25, and on the short end of a 41-38 count with but four minutes of playing time remaining, the Mules came up to the firing line with the same coolness that pulled other games out of the fire this season and hit their target for some game-winning points.

In the final analysis, the smallest members of the Muhlenberg team turned in the tallest performances. Al Saemmer connected for five field goals and a foul, while Eddie Schwob, injured earlier in the contest, and sent back into action midway through the third period, hit the hoops for six field goals, one of which proved to be the winning basket. Harry Donovan was playing under pressure in the second half, for he had four personal fouls called on him during the first half of the game. As a tribute to Baldwin, the Muhlenberg players designated him to receive the championship trophy.

For Coach Barker it also was a sweet victory. The championship dispelled the gloom over the lack of a bid to the National Invitation tournament in Madison Square Garden and it gave him an enviable record for his first year at Muhlenberg. Bud had nothing but high praise for the squad. "Muhlenberg played real championship basketball in winning the Middle Atlantic States Championship", he said. "Every member of the squad was in perfect physical condition and went into each playoff game with the right mental attitude. No coach can ask for anything else."

The shifting tides of basketball fortunes engulfed all but one of last year's All Pennsylvania collegiate basketball team as only Harry Donovan repeated on the 1947 Associated Press team. Named with Harry on the first team were Joe Lord, Villanova, Paul Coront, Lock Haven Teachers, Norman Butz, St. Joseph's, Joe Camic, Dusquesne. Harry, who had been named one of the five best players to appear at Madison Square Garden last year, had his off nights, but never faltered as a team player. The third ranking scorer in the state, he was all over the court and in clutches, came through with game winning baskets. "Donovan", said Coach Barker, "is one of the best set shots in the business."

A recap on the entire season shows the Muhlenberg team reaching a new peak in offensive power. This year's squad rolled up 1575 points for an average of 60.5 per game as compared with last year's record of 1607 points in 28 games for an average of 57.3 per game. Defensively, this year's squad allowed its opponents 1309 points for an average of 50 per game as compared with last year's record of 43.7 per game. The individual records are as follows:

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| Harry Donovan | 146 goals | 385 points | 14.8 per game |
| Dick McGee | 118 goals | 294 points | 11.3 per game |
| Al Saemmer | 57 goals | 152 points | 10.8 per game |
| Red Baldwin | | 160 points | |
| Dan Mackin | | 138 points | |
| Eddie Donovan | | 113 points | |
| Eddie Schwob | | 106 points | |
| Chuck Thiesen | | 87 points | |
| Bob Lonergan | | 33 points | |
| Frank Pfeiffer | | 22 points | |
| Marvin Jaffee | | 12 points | |

The biggest score and the highest margin was the University of Newark game which the Mules took 84-34. Their worst loss was the Bucknell game, 84-65. Temple was the only team to defeat Muhlenberg twice during the season. Only one man, Red Baldwin, will be lost to the team for next year and Coach Barker is counting heavily on the members of this year's squad in addition to several veterans of former teams who have been in the armed forces but who are expected to return to college in time for next season's competition.

The Middle Atlantic Wrestling championships were held at Rutgers University early in March. Muhlenberg, the defending team champion, could do no better than third against strong teams from Rutgers and Gettysburg. However, the Mules had one individual championship when Bert Wessman came through in the finals of the 175 pound class to pin Maroney of Haverford in 2.13 minutes of the first period with a bar and chancery. Cliff Steinbach, 145, Harry Delp, 165 and Bill Evans, unlimited, scored second places, while Getz, 121 and Amelio, 128 took third place.

Spring football practice has been underway for several days at this writing. Coach Schwartzwalder and his assistants, Bud Barker and Hoss Lough, have divided the squad into two groups, the veterans from that great team of last fall who lost only one game and gained national prominence in the Tobacco Bowl game, and the new men, reporting for the first time. Twenty eight members of the squad of last year have reported and they have been joined by 32 new men which the coaches hope will show definite signs of promise. The squad is in the throes of calisthenics and conditioning, followed by hitting dummies and light contact work. Coach Schwartzwalder hopes to begin scrimmage in two weeks.

For the 47th year, Muhlenberg will again go out to do battle on the football field this fall. The schedule for the 1947 season will find the Mules facing ten opponents, such as Lafayette, Albright, Swarthmore, Temple, Upsala, Lehigh, Gettysburg, Delaware, Bucknell and Franklin & Marshall. Moravian will not appear this year and Temple and Upsala are new faces, although they have been on Muhlenberg schedules in the past.

Speaking of schedules, the Athletic Office has just released the Spring Sports schedule. The baseballers, under Hoss Lough's tutelage, will meet the following opponents: Princeton, Lehigh, Temple, Swarthmore, Gettysburg, Lafayette, Moravian, F. & M., Bucknell, Susquehanna, Penn State, Scranton, Ursinus and New York University. The tennis schedule will have the Mules facing such teams as Gettysburg, Albright, Moravian, Lafayette, Temple, Swarthmore, Bucknell, Drexel, Lehigh, Haverford and F. & M. Coach Ernie Fellows is priming his track and field men for meets with Gettysburg, Lehigh, the Penn Relays, Haverford, Ursinus, Drexel, West Chester, Bucknell, Lafayette and Temple. All told, it should be an interesting spring around here so far as sports are concerned.

The first issue of the Ciarla since 1943 has come off the press and is being read and discussed by many students and alumni. About 800 copies of the book are being distributed to those whose college years it covers. In format, this year's volume is a marked departure from the conventional Ciarla of former years. To make

it handier to use and accommodate on a bookshelf, it has been issued in 7 by 10 inch size rather than as the larger and more conventional yearbook. Full pages of pictures are alternated with text pages throughout the entire book. The book is dedicated to the 37 Muhlenberg men who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces during the recent world war.

Polls are popular at most any time and the editors of the WEEKLY recently conducted one among the students. The results may be of interest to you and provide some food for discussion; 75.2 percent of the students who answered the questions favor a soldier's bonus; 93.5 percent of the group favor increases in payments to veterans, both married and single; 62.4 percent favor universal military training; 65 percent favored the unification of the armed forces; Dewey, Stassen, Byrnes, Eisenhower, Wallace and Vandenberg were the choices for presidential nomination at the next election, while Ingrid Bergman as the favorite actress, Gary Cooper as the top actor, and the Bob Hope Show as the favorite radio program completed the census. O.K., what do you think?

A few other random shots around the campus reveal the Founders Day banquets by both Phi Kappa Tau and Alpha Tau Omega, the renewed interest in Sigma Phi Epsilon, whose active chapter has been doing things, President Tyson speaking at the annual dinner of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, (and giving them a good dose of John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg), the annual M Club show "Sheepskin Derby" in the process of casting, class elections- really contested this year, etc. etc. etc.

This letter is going out to two hundred and three men still in service. In the past, I could always count on a dozen or more letters for each issue to relate news of YOU wherever you were. I don't believe that in the past four months I have received a dozen letters altogether. How about evening up the score --I write to you---YOU write to me and tell me how things are in your corner of the world and what you are doing. Come on, Cressman, let's hear from you and the rest of you Mules.

Cordially,

John

JOHN H. WAGNER
Alumni Secretary